

# dordt college Diamond

November 19, 1998

## The End of the World as we know it: Dordt hosts Theological debate on the end times

by **Tricia S. Van Ee**  
Staff Reporter

Approximately 60 people from Dordt and the community were present to witness a theo-

logical debate between four local pastors on the end times Wednesday evening, November 11.

Pastor Walter Diesch, retired Baptist minister, Pastor Steve Gibbens of the Christ

Community Church in Sioux Center, Pastor Daniel Kordahl of Peace Lutheran in Sioux Center and Pastor Aldon Kuiper of Hope Christian Reformed Church in Hull participated in the debate.

Moderators were Professor Tom Soerens, Dordt Theology professor, and Professor John Kok, Dean of Humanities.

The debate, which was sponsored by North Hall and coordinated by sophomore pre-seminary student Brandon Davis, began with brief statements on the topic from each of the four pastors. They discussed post, pre, and amillennialism, along with

the Tribulation, the Rapture and the Battle of Armageddon.

The pastors had varying interpretations of those subjects, but as Gibbens stated, "What position you hold depends on your interpretation of Revelation 20." This passage, about the thousand years of Christ's earthly rule, was another topic discussed.

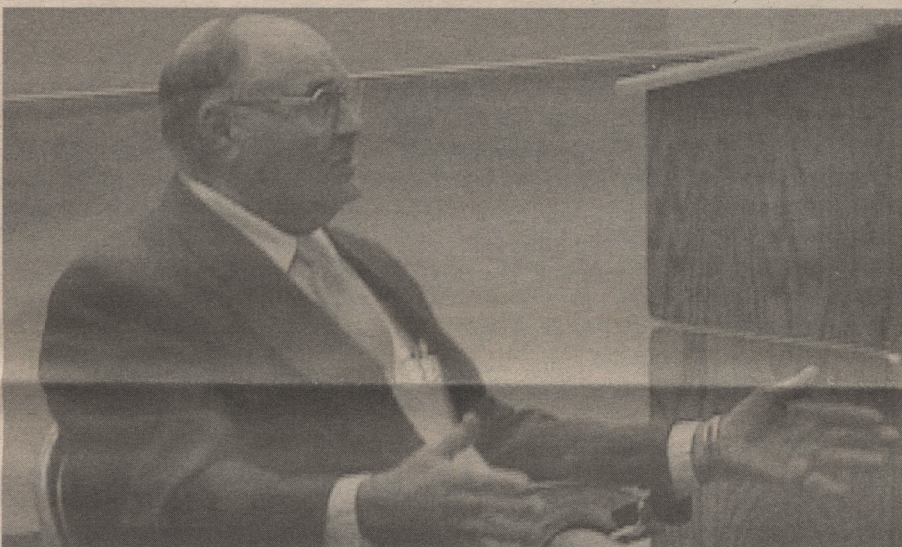
Students were given the opportunity to ask questions of the pastors. A few questions that were asked dealt with topics such as the literal translation of Scripture, the thousand years and the Rapture.

These exchanges sparked slightly more heated discussion between members of different denominations and ways of interpretation.

Student reaction to the debate was consensual: "It was very interesting," said one student after another. One freshman said, "It sparked my interest, and I want to go and study it now."

Soerens was pleased with the number of people who attended. Concerning the debate, he added, "I thought the selection of speakers was great. We got strong statements from perspectives we don't often hear in Reformed circles."

Pastor Kuiper also acknowledged the differing views brought out during the debate. He pointed out that even though views differed, "we can encourage each other in our anticipation of the return of Christ." Pastor Kordahl also pointed out "on salvation, there's only one way: by faith in Christ."



Walter Diesch, a retired Baptist pastor, discusses eschatology as part of a panel discussion sponsored by North Hall. [Photo by Joe Trosen]

## Dordt students inspired at ECHO Conference

by **Jeanine Kopaska**  
Guest Writer

An Aborigine woman once said, "If you've come to help me, don't bother; but if you've come because your liberation is tied with mine, then let's walk together." For four days missionaries, students and teachers walked, talked and learned together about the liberation of people living in poverty and devastation.

Last week, five students and two professors from Dordt joined conference delegates from Latin America, Africa and Asia at the Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization's (ECHO) 5th Annual Conference held in Fort Meyers, Florida.

ECHO assists mission organizations and national churches with agricultural practices in the Third World. The development of agriculture and food production in impoverished communities is but one way in which people are

liberated from an impoverished situations. The people at ECHO are able to serve the needs of missionaries and farmers by sharing ideas, information and seeds.

The ECHO conference provided an opportunity for the missionaries to share their ideas, information and experience. Delegates were given the opportunity to pass on their ideas through formal presentations and practical, hands-on workshops.

The lectures and workshops covered a wide variety of topics including community development, appropriate technologies, sustainable agriculture, rooftop gardening, basic fund raising and briquetting technology.

Conference delegates got their hands dirty grafting trees, and making soap and clay bricks. Even with all the educational opportunities at our fingertips, the conference schedule allowed plenty of time for personal networking with other conference

delegates.

Many delegates left the conference elated with the wealth of information they had gathered in only four days. Included in this wealth of information, the biblical principles of stewardship

were consistently revealed in the approach to agricultural missions.

I left this conference rejoicing because I saw missionaries and supportive mission organizations committed to serving the poor while serving creation.



Mike Leichty, a student from another school, Jeanine Kopaska, Emily Hutten and Curt Dykstra bask in the sun during the ECHO conference. [Photo submitted]

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# Peace is far from the middle east

by Lynette Bakker  
Jen Hoogeveen  
Staff Reporters

## Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suspended a West Bank troop pullback Monday breaking the agreement between Israeli and Palestinian factions.

Netanyahu demanded that Yasser Arafat retract threats to use force to bring about a Palestinian state. Arafat claimed that a Palestinian state would be in place by May and threatened to exclude Jerusalem. A peaceable solution has not been reached.

## Russia

After a year's delay the Zarya cargo module, the first piece of a multi-billion-dollar International Space Station, was placed on a launch pad in central Kazakhstan on Monday. The

module is part of an ambitious space station project and is scheduled to be launched Friday.

The space station will still not be inhabitable until a service module to house astronauts and life-support systems are launched and attached to the Zarya. NASA has provided \$60 million to ensure the service module is launched next summer.

## Southeast Asia

Representatives from the United States and 20 other countries are gathered this week in Malaysia for the annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

The United States is pressing Asian countries to undertake painful economic reforms, but with no threat of a collapsing currency, many governments may not act on this advice.

deterioration in the underlying economies.

## Iraq

After 150 U.N. weapons inspectors were removed from Iraq last week, they returned from Jordan on Tuesday in hopes to find and destroy biological and chemical weapons and long-range missiles in Iraq. President Clinton says the U.S. and Britain are prepared to use force if necessary. The attack is on hold for now because Iraq stated in a letter that they will cooperate if the troops do not attack.

Iraq has agreed to hand over to the weapons inspectors

two sensitive documents concerning its chemical and biological weapons programs and promised the inspectors full access to all sites.

Clinton promised to continue the oil-for-food program with Iraq but warned that the force will remain.

## US

Another school massacre nearly occurred last week in Burlington, Wisconsin. Three teenage boys between the ages of 15 and 16 were arrested last Sunday with plans to kill teachers, principal, and a group of students that they did not get along with.

In this small, quiet community of 9,500, the boys were never considered to have serious behavioral problems. They were not suspected to be gang members, but were normal boys with normal misconduct.



# Understanding and enjoying the diversity of the nations

by Jocelyn Van Beek  
Staff Reporter

**Spectrum:** The International Club is an organization that seeks to help students from different cultures and countries learn from each other. Spectrum has 35 members representing nine different countries.

Spectrum meets on alternate Mondays in room L107 to discuss the events and conferences they will be attending and to discover new strategies of teaching about different cultures. Jackson Alang'o and

Eunice Muthengi are the co-presidents and one of their goals as presidents is to get more Americans and Canadians involved in the club so it is not solely made up of international students.

The club hopes to have an influence on campus and are pleased how some members speak about other countries at meetings. This year spectrum members learned about Northwest Iowa's and South Africa's cultures. Dr. Apol also shared about Mexican inhabitants in Sioux Center.

Suzannah Kok, international

student advisor, says another goal of Spectrum is that "Spectrum wants to get people from different cultures to get to know each other by stepping out into the community and into the Spectrum community." It is a movement that promotes learning about, understanding, learning from and working with each other and enjoying the diversity of getting together as a diverse group of people.

So far this year Spectrum has organized one chapel which was a worship service drawing on other cultures. Also seven students attended the National

Christian Multicultural Student Leadership Conference in Wheaton, Illinois. The conference discussed racial issues on a Christian college campus and taught the students many valuable things. Many feel that race on Dordt's campus is a burning issue that needs to be dealt with, and whether others agree, it is unavoidable.

On November 20 and 21, five students will be attending the Iowa International Fellows Program sponsored by the Iowa Council for International Understanding. This conference teaches how to provide better

leadership in a global world.

Right now, Spectrum is involved in planning several activities. Next semester Spectrum hopes to hold a dance at Dordt. Also, Marissa Moncur is working on a Dollar Days petition that will provide aid to those in the Honduras tragedy.

This is a club that is not meant only for those from foreign countries. They would love to have "locals" come and join the club. It is a great learning experience that teaches about other cultures and the great diversity of our world.

## Staff

The *Diamond* is published by students of Dordt College to present and discuss events on campus and beyond. Any letters, comments, or opinions are welcome. Contributions must be signed and received before 4:00 pm the Monday before publication to be printed in that issue. Send contributions to:

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## Theatre Department Travels to Minneapolis, Takes in Two Shows

by James Addink  
Guest Writer

For the first time in two years, the theatre department was able to organize a trip to Minneapolis, Minnesota. On Friday, November 6, thirteen students and two faculty members squeezed into a van and drove out of Sioux Center to see two plays.

On Friday night the group went to The Great American History Theatre and saw *The Orphan Train* by Patty Lynch. This is a story about the children on the trains that took orphans from the large eastern cities to the rural midwestern towns in the late 1920's. *The Orphan Train* focused on the towns in Minnesota, bringing a local feel that the audience appreciated.

Jason Vande Brake, a junior theatre major, said about the play, "The actor playing the villain was great. I hated his character; he was so evil." Junior psychology major Stephanie Hofland seconded his opinion and added that the lighting in the show was excellent.

On Saturday morning, the group went to the Walker Art Center, where they were led on a tour by Dordt graduate Renee Vander Stelt. She pointed out that the Walker Art Center is not an art gallery, but a center because it houses art pieces as well as studio artists and performances.

Later that afternoon, the group went to the Guthrie Theatre and saw the second of the two productions: *The Venetian Twins* by Carlo Goldoni. The play is based on the style of the Italian commedia del arte. In this play, a rich idiot and his poor but intelligent and suave brother both seek love. It was a classical case of mistaken identity as each brother meets the other's lover. The kicker, however, is that both characters are played by the same man, who it would seem is at two places on stage at the same time.

The Guthrie Theatre once again masterfully produced a play that included a taste of Minnesota. The Dordt group enjoyed the show and couldn't say enough good things about the performance.

## Tasting a different culture



Amy West lectures on relationship between theology and anthropology during Hug-A-Linguist days. [Photo by Joe Trosen]

by Laura Hobscheid  
Staff Reporter

Everyday students on this campus read and write without thinking twice about it. Try to imagine not knowing how to read or write. Writing a letter, reading a magazine and even reading the Bible would all be foreign to you yet this is how some people live their lives.

The 25th annual Hug-A-Linguist days were held November 9, 10 and 11. The speakers this year were Joanne Shetler and Amy West from Wycliffe Bible Translators. West's focus was theology and anthropology while Shetler's focus was linguistics and translation.

Shetler and West's lectures centered on the people of Balangao, a group of people who

live in Northern Luzon. Together, the two of them have translated the New Testament for the people in Balangao.

Shetler and West had two main ideas they wanted Dordt to learn from their talks. First of all, we need to be aware of the great need for Bible translators in the world. The second was to impress us with the fact that there are more than 7,000 different languages around the world and many of them still need the Bible translated for them. The purpose of celebrating Hug-A-Linguist days is to make us aware of people who live in a different culture with a different language.

Dr. Kornelis Boot of the Foreign Language Department was very pleased with the turnout of people who attended the lectures. Boot noticed, "many students came not just to get the credit for their foreign language class, but because they were interested." The talks communicated to the hearts of the students.

The speakers made students see that the world we live in is a real world and we all have to be aware of the evil spirits around us and fight against them. The only way to succeed in this fight is with the help of God and his word.



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### S.A.C. Events:

#### Friday, Nov. 20:

7 p.m. Truman Show in C160 (free)

9 p.m. Truman Show in C160 (free)

11 p.m. Comedy League in the SUB

#### Saturday, Nov. 21:

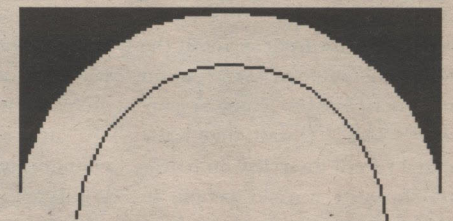
8 p.m. Truman Show in BJH

with free popcorn

9 p.m. FBE Country Dance

#### Questions?

Call 6436 or e-mail: sac@dordt.edu



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## What's in a name?

by Danielle Kamps  
Staff Reporter

So, have you been to the De Witt Gymnasium lately? If you are an underclassman, you are probably thinking "Yes" or "No" right now. If you are an upperclassman, you might be thinking "Where in the world is the De Witt Gymnasium?" For those of you who do not go around reading the snazzy new signs around campus, the De Witt Gymnasium is the new name of the building formerly known as "The Gym."

The building formerly known as "The Gym" received its new name sometime last year. As the ever-reliable "Dordt Rumor Mill" has it, the name was bestowed on the building in response to an unusually large monetary donation given to Dordt

(somewhere upwards to one million dollars). The "Rumor Mill" also has it that if the donation had been up around two million dollars, the entire recreation center complex would have been named after Mr. and Mrs. De Witt.

So my question is: why did Dordt start selling the names of its buildings to the highest bidder? The BJ Haan Auditorium was named in honor of (surprise!) BJ Haan, founding president of Dordt. His name was put on this building as a recognition of outstanding service after his death; he did not buy it.

One of my favorite New Testament Bible stories is the story of the poor widow in the temple (Mark 12 and Luke 21). While many rich people were giving large sums of money of their wealth in the temple treasury box, Jesus commends the widow for giving everything she owned: two copper pennies. I believe

the same principle applies to Dordt, as well. Why are we only honoring those who are giving from their wealth without also honoring everyone else who gives to Dordt? Often, these people give what they can, sometimes more than they can afford, even though it is less than a million dollars.

If we want to carry out this building-naming rationale consistently, we should start naming all of our buildings and landmarks after people who have donated money and time to Dordt. It is either that, or we should not start selling the names in the first place.

Someday I hope to be able to donate some of my resources to Dordt College. If the current trend continues, when I return to Dordt, perhaps I'll find my name honored here as well. "The Danielle Kamps Fire Extinguisher" . . . I can see it now.

## Calvinism needs a spokesperson too

by Grant Elgersma  
Staff Reporter

Her waist size may be way down now, but Oprah Winfrey's influence in America is still huge. Oprah single-handedly makes the nature and dilemmas of the African-American community understandable to people of many different cultures and traditions. As a member of the much misunderstood Reformed community, I must say, I am a little jealous.

Winfrey's work on the film adaptation of Toni Morrison's novel, "Beloved" raises awareness about the psychological effects still upon African-Americans. "This is my 'Schindler's List'," Oprah told Katie Couric in a recent interview on NBC's "Today" show. "I wanted people to know what slavery was, not academically, but as a felt knowledge."

With "Beloved," Oprah uses the film medium to communicate on an emotional level to people of all nationalities. The cinema, with its focus upon the sentimental and the sensational, seems a natural place for Oprah, who's television show successfully tugs at the hearts of viewers all over the country every weekday afternoon.

A recent "Oprah Winfrey Show" featured a discussion of panelists, experts in the field of race relations, who were discussing what the film version of "Beloved" expresses about the African-American condition. A white male from Indianapolis concluded the show with a heart-felt and

teary-eyed apology. He was sorry for not understanding the anguish his "brothers and sisters" felt and still feel as a result of their historical situation. Oprah's "Beloved" had shown him his ignorance. It was a confession and testimony of a man converted.

Only Oprah, with her welcoming and straightforward manner, could bring so many to recognize why blacks feel as they do. Only Oprah could become the first black woman to enter and revolutionize daytime television. Only Oprah has been able to help people of many different backgrounds realize what other black leaders said and could not be understood by outsiders.

It is really too bad the Reformed community does not have an Oprah Winfrey.

It would be nice to have someone who could help raise awareness about the psychological effects Calvinism has had upon the Reformed community. Or someone who would help others feel what it's like to be reformed. I would be proud to hear a renowned talk show host say in an interview with Katie Couric, "This is my 'Beloved' about a movie version of Dr. Schaap's 'Our Family Album,'" for example.

We as a Reformed community, would finally be able to breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that (at last!) we are understood by the world. Then, who knows? A Hispanic woman from Phoenix might volunteer to apologize on "The Banner Television Show" for not understand-

ing what we meant by TULIP and say how, after watching the film version of "Our Family Album" she realizes why we are the way we are.

Sure, we don't have slavery or the Holocaust, but our historical tradition has much to offer a world that is rapidly losing its identity. Dr. James Schaap, in the writer's notes for the *Free to Serve* presentation, says, "The story of the CRC is worth telling. It's ours, whether or not we want to claim it."

Our story is not laden with the loss of human life and dignity as in the African-American tradition. But we are a marginalized group of people with many contributions to make in the world. Our contributions will most likely not come in the form of an Oprah Winfrey (we're not quite as good at evoking emotions, or even showing them for that matter). But the lack of emotional fervor in our tradition leaves room for a slow and patient process of thinking and behaving which marries well with a strong Calvinist work ethic.

Without the blinders of emotional and psychological damage, people of the Calvinian tradition can present a helpful perspective to the problems people of other cultural backgrounds face. Understanding ourselves should not be our only focus as a people. Helping others to understand themselves in the light of Christ will be our aim instead. But, it wouldn't hurt to look for an Oprah or two within our ranks.

## "How's it going?": Question or greeting?

by Matthew McNatt  
Columnist

Several times daily, I answer the question, "How are you?"—or at least one of its variants like "H're ya, man?" or "What's up?" or "Classes been going all right?" I had long ago noticed the insincerity of many of these, noting that people would continue walking along the sidewalk after asking, not bothering to wait for a response. I had, at one point, even begun answering them all, "yes."

There's one person on campus, though, to whom I would never answer, "yes." With him, I no longer even respond "fine" when my day is going lousy. And I am not alone. Others answer honestly as well.

In the Commons, when I first met this person, whom I call a friend though he has never verbally called me the same, I knew something was unique. When he spoke, he looked me in the eye. And after I made some comment, he put down his sandwich to give me an thoughtful response. He even waited until I was finished eating, though I had arrived long after he had begun.

Every time he has seen me since, his face lights up, as if he were seeing a long lost friend for the first time in years. He stops walking when we pass on the sidewalk or brush shoulders at meals, even if he is just saying, "hi."

These are little things, I know, but from them I get a clear message: I'm special. And I get another message: this person cares about me, although I have no clue why. These messages mean a lot, for regardless of the length of my conversation with

this friend, I walk away feeling better, enlivened by the power of the simple.

His gestures are simple, as are so many of mine, but his heal, not hurt. He honors me as a person, even though I so often fail to honor others. I feel so good after seeing him—so why do I so consistently fail to treat others with the same simple kindness?



I need to work on conveying others the message, "You're special to me," but until I master the art of a simple glance, a slow response or a kind word, let me take the space I have in this column to salute a friend, to honor him as he so often honors me.

When I asked if I could mention him in a column, we were just passing on the sidewalk. As usual, he stopped and smiled, then shrugged his shoulders and said, "sure." He was surprised that I had asked.

Surprise him again today reader—as well as others you see. Take time, if only a little, to convey to others, "You're special to me." And, while you're at it, please pause, smile and say "hi" to Troy DeVlieger; make his day, as he so often makes the days of others.

## OVERHEARD

**"I didn't even hear you. We were talking too loud."**

**-David Adams, explaining why he wasn't paying attention to the professor**

**"I wonder how Wiebe showers..."**

**-anonymous female**

**"See! Canadians serve some useful purpose!"**

**-Paul Otto**





## A r e w e r a c i s t ?

by Suzanna C. Kok  
International Student  
Advisor

Do you believe that "race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities-and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race?"

If you answered "yes," then according to Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth edition, you are a racist.

If you don't believe that to be true, you may still be considered a racist.

"What!? I've never discriminated against a person of color by refusing to get to know her because of her skin color, protested when students of color moved into my dorm or used a racial slur-at least not out loud! Out here we have hardly any people of color to interact with! How can I be racist?"

According to some of our American Christian brothers and sisters, we are indeed racists. This is a message I was challenged by this past weekend at the National

Christian Multicultural Student Leadership Conference held at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. The sisters and brothers who confronted my students and I with this challenge were members of various racial groups: Asian-American, Hispanic-American and Euro-American. They contend that if I'm of Northern European descent and if the color of my skin is white, I am a member of the group in North American society that has social, economic and political power.

In the United States, this group of people far outnumbers groups of people who trace their ancestry to Africa, Asia and North and South America.

My own people come from Northern Europe and, according to my brothers and sisters at the conference, I'm racist because I'm a member of a majority group that has institutionalized the granting of certain rights and privileges to "ourselves" and denied some of these

privileges and rights to people in the minority groups. This granting and withholding of certain rights and privileges is a result of hundreds of years of social, economic and political developments-most of which I had no influence on.

But, didn't "we," the majority, stand beside you in the 60's, to combat racism? No! What we addressed in the 60's was segregation, not racism. Segregation is an unjust legal matter and, thank God, it is abolished. Racism goes deeper than that. It is a matter of the heart, not just a matter of legal system.

What is it then that people of color and minority cultures have to deal with these days? Let me try to answer that question by telling you a true story. About twenty years ago, when my family and I lived in Amsterdam, we had a college student stay with us for a couple of months. He'd been on a study-abroad program from a Christian college in the U.S. The program was

over and he wanted to spend the summer in Amsterdam. One day we were chatting and I asked him, "Ed, what is it about Amsterdam that you like so much?"

Ed thought for a few moments and then said, "I love it that I can step out of the door, take the bus or the metro, get out anywhere I want and I don't have people looking at me and wondering, 'What's he doing in this part of town?' I can just be Ed. I can just be me. I don't have to wonder, will it be okay for a black person to be in this part of town. Yeah-that's it-I feel free!" That answer humbled me then and humbles me every time I think of it, or tell the story.

So what must we do?

First, listen to the brothers and sisters who challenge us with this accusation. Listen to the brothers and sisters of color who have stories of anger, shame, hurt and bitterness that have come about as a result of the color of their sin. Be quiet, listen and acknowledge

their pain. Confess and repent of the sins of our fathers and our own sins that have contributed to the suffering of other members of the body of Christ today.

In his first letter to the Corinthian congregation, chapter 12, the apostle Paul describes all of God's children as a body, made up of many different parts, but baptized by one Spirit and functioning as a unit. "For if one part of the body suffers, does not the entire body share in the pain?" he asks. If there are members of the household of God, the body of Christ, our brothers and sisters, who are hurt by the institutional racism of our day, shouldn't we listen to their cries of pain and acknowledge their suffering?

Only after we take that first step, can we look at the second part of the verse from I Corinthians 12:28: "...and if one part is honored, then the whole body rejoices with it."

## Just don't do it

by Sarah Walsh  
Columnist

Many students, including myself, own one or more pairs of Nike shoes. Most are aware of the recent exposure of Nike due to their sweatshop labor practices in Asia. The fact that we support Nike by purchasing their merchandise further perpetuates the demand for cheap labor for Nike as they are interested, as most corporations are, in the largest possible profit.

For those diehard Nike fans out there, here are some of the facts: The workers at the factory near Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, were exposed to carcinogens in their factory that exceeded local standards by six to 177 times. Seventy-seven percent of those employees suffered from respiratory problems and were forced to work 65 hours a week for \$10. Michael Jordan's endorsement fee with Nike is \$20 million dollars, more than all the Nike workers in Vietnam combined.

In Indonesia, the wages are worse. Nike recently raised the wages from \$20 a month to \$25, but only

due to the inflation Indonesia has been facing, not because of concern for workers forced to etch out an existence with \$2 a day-below the wage for standard living.

It's tempting to think that these



workers should be grateful that Nike has at least built factories there and given them jobs. But instead of jobs that empower its workers to lead happier, more productive lives, the workers at Nike consistently point out how it breeds dependency because of the low wages received. Sounds like neo-colonialism to me. It's time for us to begin questioning Nike's practices and determining if what they are doing is truly a positive influence in the communities they are working in.

Larger than all of this are the

disturbing connections to our consumerist lifestyle and its effects on the rest of the world. Our, meaning North America, demand for so many things is sucking the life out of the Third World. In order for us to buy so many things, they need to be produced cheaply.

This drives North American investors to sub-contract in other countries where they can get that cheap labor. Nike isn't the only company that has capitalized on the willingness of other countries to be exploited.

For now, we do have some choices to make. As a Christian community with this knowledge and with compassion for these exploited workers, we can decide not to purchase Nike products anymore until they expand their code of conduct. Until better agreements are made, wear out your Nike shoes and clothing.

Nike is the biggest sport shoe manufacturer in America. If we can change Nike's labor practices, other shoe manufacturers will be forced to improve their's too. Send mail to: [nike@saigon.com](mailto:nike@saigon.com).

## Smoking: It's our right

by Ryan Vande Kraats  
Staff Reporter

I was asked to write an article voicing an opinion and that is what I am going to do. The subject is smoking and I think that smoking should be allowed on Dordt's campus.

Some people may say that smoking is harmful for the smoker and the people in that general area. And yes, it is proven empirically that smoking is a harmful activity both first and second-hand.

However, smokers know this and if they choose to continue this habit, that is their decision. Some people may say that smoking is wrong because it defiles the body, which is a gift from God and something that should be treated with more care. And that too has some validity to it. Perhaps smoking is sinful and wrong, but I don't feel that it is the administration's place to tell smokers that they may no longer smoke on campus because it is sinful and wrong. That is like telling someone who lies that they are not allowed on campus because lying is wrong and sinful. A sin is a sin and a sin is a sin.

As for second-hand smoke, I don't think that is really an issue in this context. With the exception of outside the classroom building between classes, there is really no place

where the inhalation of second-hand smoke by unwilling breathers might take place. It has been over 25 years since smoking has been allowed in any of Dordt's buildings. So I don't feel like that is a valid reason either.

Some people might say smoking is an eyesore and it gives Dordt a bad image to have smokers lounging around in front of its buildings and around its residence halls. But Dordt students are human too. Smoking is a bit of a nasty habit, and it may not be what people would generally like to see when touring the campus, but it is a habit that some students have adopted all the same.

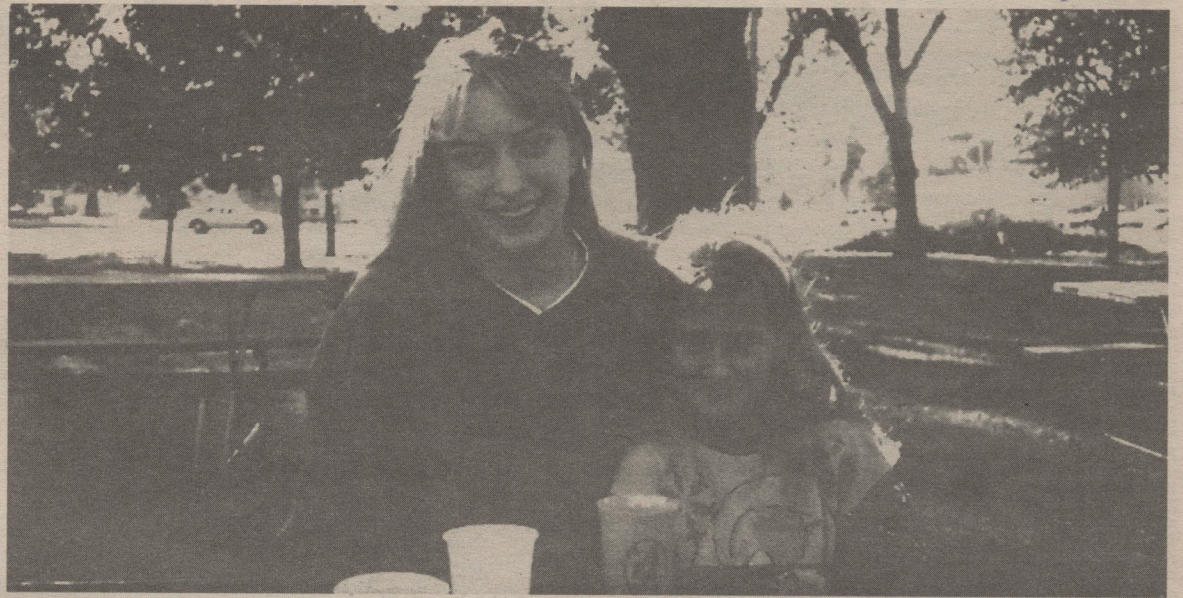
These are just a few of the arguments in favor of allowing smoking to continue on campus. Some of you out there will more than likely disagree with me and I can't stop that. I will just say that I am a smoker and that I have met a lot of cool people on campus because I stopped and had a smoke one day. That is my final argument. You can all disagree with me if you like, that is your right. But it is also my right to smoke if I want to.

**Do you think smoking should be allowed or banned on Dordt's campus? Send your thoughts to [diamond@dordt.edu](mailto:diamond@dordt.edu)**





**Karen den Boer spends an afternoon with her pal.**  
[Photo submitted]



**Rachel Mulder enjoys a picnic with her pal.**

[Photo submitted]

## Just pal-ing around

by **Rebekah Dieter**  
Guest Writer

For the past two and a half years, I have been involved with the PALS program through the Community Outreach Program. This mentorship program matches up college students with elementary and high school stu-

dents. This has been an incredible experience. My pal is a boy who is 12 now. We spend a couple of hours a week with each other, usually doing things like playing games, coloring, going sledding or going out for hot chocolate. However, his all-time favorite activity seems to be bowling in the SUB, something

at which he beats me every time. The PALS program also sets up group activities such as an afternoon to decorate pumpkins and a Christmas party.

This program has been an enjoyable way for me to get out of the college scene and have fun with someone who is not my age.

## A caring hand Of cards

by **Jason Koelewyn**  
Guest Writer

I have been volunteering at the nursing home, Pleasant Acres, in Hull since I was a freshman. Over the years, I have played quite a few card games, but I have also grown close to many of the residents. In a way, I have my own gang over there. We all sit around the table playing games, telling stories, poking fun of each other and just having regular conversation. There are Jake, Ray, Elsie, Clara, Minnie, Cornie, Harold, Chester, Veronica and many others.

Unfortunately, the reality of death and aging hits hard when you are at place concentrated

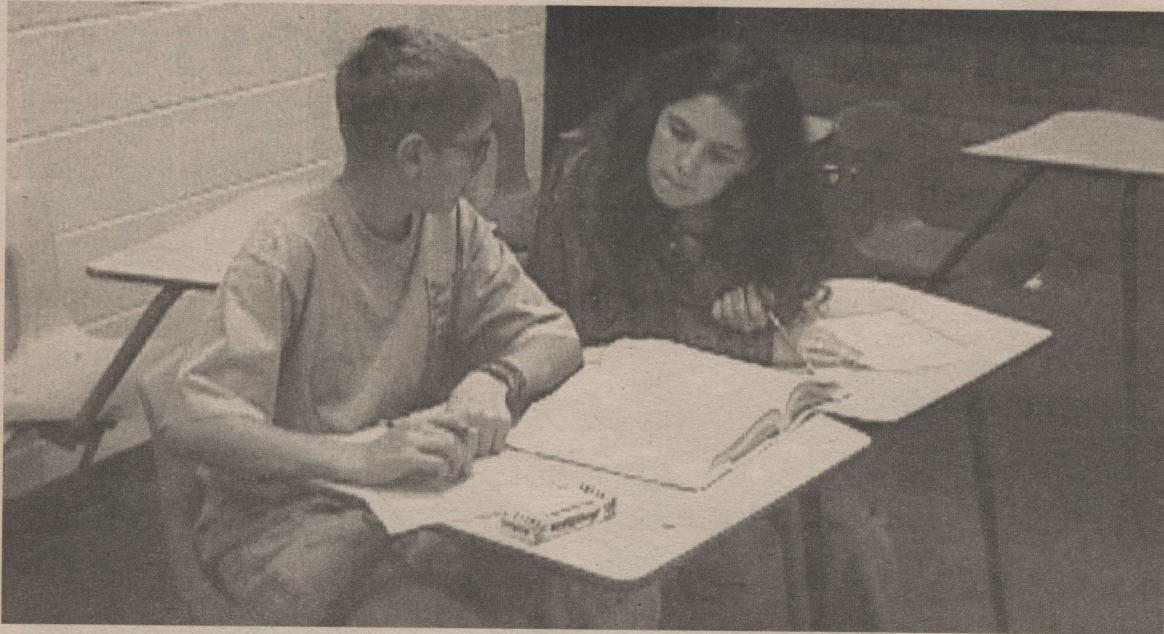
with the elderly. I cannot imagine living in a place constantly surrounded by death, where people are continually losing their physical and mental capabilities. Depression can easily set in, and I have definitely seen it. But this is where you and I come in. It does not take much, but just knowing we took time out of our schedules for them makes a world of difference to them. You do not have to be a great card player or talker; simply being there is most of it. Smiles reach across their faces whenever you go, and they will reach across your face too.



**Jason Koelewyn plays cards with residents of Pleasant Acres .**

[Photo submitted]





Sara Van Groningen helps out in the COP program [Photo by Sean Gregg]

## "That was too easy!"

by Sara Van Groningen  
Guest Writer

For the past three years, I have been involved in the COP program as a tutor at the Sioux Center Middle School in their After School Program.

Every week I spend a couple of hours tutoring students who need help, primarily in math and science. I see most of the same students every time I go and get to know who they are.

Last year, I worked frequently with one student who had a hard time understanding math. We worked on math problem sets two afternoons a week. At first, he wanted nothing to do

with me, but slowly he started responding and soon began to gain confidence as he started to "get" math. I will never forget the time he looked at me and said, "that can't be the answer; that was too easy!" We celebrated together when he received a B on one of his final math tests.

He is now in high school so he doesn't attend the After School Program anymore. No one can take his place, but his seat is now filled with other students who need help. I have spent many hours in tutoring for the COP program, but the hours don't compare to what I have learned.

## COP reaches out

by Mitch Beaumont  
Staff Reporter

Community outreach...it's a phrase that many Christians associate with something very boring and useless. To some, reaching out to people in need is the last thing they want to do with their time. A college campus would be no exception. Some students wouldn't want to spend their spare time doing something for someone else when they could be relaxing.

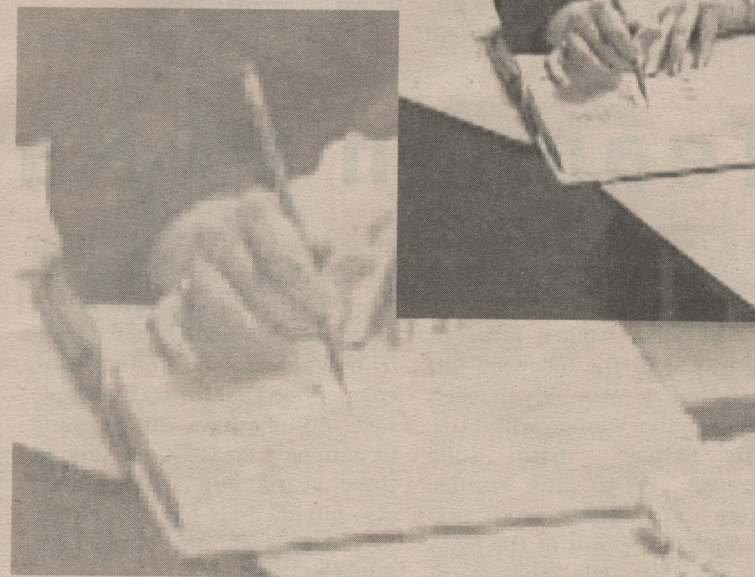
It is quite the opposite on our campus, though. Dordt isn't your typical college, with the abundance of Dutch people and all those people whose name starts with Van something or other. To say that we fit into the mold of Christian colleges would be inaccurate. It is evident to me that the students at Dordt care very much for the needy people of our community. Alright, why did I go to the trouble to point that out? There is an organization on Dordt's campus that deals specifically with community outreach and getting students involved in the Sioux Center community.

"The Community Outreach Program is a volunteer program that sets up student volunteers with different agencies in the community," says co-director Laura de Jager.

This program is run by directors, de Jager and Megan Ribbens, who do the majority of

the administrative tasks. They are assisted by four volunteer coordinators: Leah Van Zee, Jason Koelewyn, Sarah Van Groningen and Eunice Muthungi. These coordinators are responsible for pairing volunteers with agencies in the area, which is the gist of their program.

The goals of the Community Outreach Program are two-fold. First, they strive to provide the community with services provided by the Dordt volunteers, while



at the same time carrying out their Christian faith to whomever they come in contact with.

Secondly, COPS strives "to enable students to get practical experience for their classroom learning," says de Jager. This practical experience can be

gained by volunteering for a number of different agencies in the area. The COPS program sends out volunteers to 22 agencies across our community, ranging from tutoring to working in hospitals. COP volunteers reach out to the mentally and

## Pam Den Ouden explains the assignment to a Sioux Center Middle School student.

[Photo by Sean Gregg]

physically handicapped and the elderly. "We also 'special order' agencies for people who are looking for a specific place to work at," says de Jager. Students have an array of choices as to who they reach out to, eliminating the excuse that it's boring.

The COP reaches out to many different groups of people in our community. The program got a good response from the student body this year, pulling in

over 100 volunteers, but more volunteers are needed. It is our responsibility as Christians to reach out to those in need, and the Community Outreach Program is an excellent opportunity to do just that. I encourage both student and staff members to check out the COPS program by contacting either Megan Ribbens or Laura de Jager. You won't regret getting involved.





## Dordt men open with two tough losses

by Craig Broek  
Sports Reporter

The 1998 Dordt Defenders men's basketball team opened their season with two close losses, one at home and one on the road.

Dordt hosted Midland Lutheran in their season debut, and jumped out to an early ten point lead midway through the first half. Midland chipped away and stayed close, as Dordt took a 41-35 halftime lead.

In the second half, Dordt came out flat and Midland took the lead a minute and a half into the second half, extending their lead to as much as 14 points at one point during the game. But Dordt would not die, as varsity newcomers Brian Wassenaar and Matt Van Essen led Dordt defensively back into the game, finally tying the score with about two minutes left. The final two minutes went back and forth, with Dordt having the final shot.

With about ten seconds left, the Defenders had the ball out of bounds after a time-out. Randy Oostra tipped in what seemed to be the game winning shot, but it was called off after he was called for going over the back of a Midland player. So to the other end of the floor for two free throws with .9 seconds left on the clock. However, the Midland player missed both free throws, sending the game into overtime.

Dordt ran out of gas in overtime, dropping this one by the score of 86-82.

It was a very messy game, with neither team shooting well; Dordt hit only 37% of its shots from the floor. Oostra led all scorers with 24, followed by Adam Van Meeteren with 16, Neal Brenneman with 13, and Mike Fransman with 10. Oostra also took down 11 boards followed by Brenneman with 9. Dordt also struggled from the free throw line, making only 63% of their opportunities from the charity stripe. Nearly everyone got off the bench as Coach Greg Van Soelen looked for the best lineup. The Defenders struggled to find someone to score when they needed to and this will be something to look for in the games to come.

Following the disappointing home loss, Dordt took the road for their first road game of the year at Northwestern. NWC had also lost their first game of the year, a two point affair to Dordt's SDIC foe Mount Marty.

NWC opened the season in the preseason NAIA polls at #15 in the nation. Dordt knew they would have their hands full with a tough Red Raider team, which had lost only one starter from a year before.

NWC came out with a sticky man-to-man defense getting their hands all over the place and pinned Dordt back early,



**Eric Maas (45) and Neil Brenneman (51) defend against Midland Lutheran.**  
[Photo by Andy Stravers]

scoring 11 points before Dordt finally got on the board. Northwestern extended their lead to as many as 18 points in the first half, but again cold shooting by NWC combined with Dordt's defense helped Dordt claw their way back into the game. Dordt got to within 12 at halftime, trailing 34-22.

The second half was more of the same, as neither team got into a real shooting rhythm, keeping the game within 10 points most of the way. Dordt got as close as 6 points, but no further and lost their second

straight game, 63-57.

Once again free throw shooting hurt the Defenders as they made only 50% from the stripe, connecting on 15 out of 30 opportunities. They also shot a frigid 33% from the field and 20% from behind the three point arc. Once again Dordt struggled to find a go-to guy, as they couldn't get over the hump.

Van Meeteren led Dordt with 16 points and seven rebounds, followed by Oostra with 10 points and also pulling down 7 caroms.

The newcomers again

played well; Wassenaar played good defense off the bench and Eric Maas showed signs of potential down low. Dordt felt the injury of Mike Elenbaas as they had one less versatile player able to go down and do the dirty work.

Dordt travels to Sterlin, Kansas this weekend for games on Friday and Saturday before returning home again to face two Northwestern games in a row, from Minnesota on Saturday and from Orange City the following Wednesday.

## Cross Country Team on to Nationals

by Jocelyn Van Beek  
Sports Reporter

Saturday November 7 was the day of the first snow, but it was also the day that Dordt's cross country team competed at the SDIC Cross Country Championships at the Fox Run Golf Course in Yankton, South Dakota. It was 30 degrees outside with a slight wind and falling snow. The team got the special privilege of running in a little over one inch of snow on the course, but regardless, they did excellent. The women's team qualified as a whole by taking first place, and the men have two runners who qualified individually.

The women had a very good race that day. They were all looking forward to running and the snow added an element of excitement to the day. Two of Dordt's women qualified for a nomination for All-America Scholar Athlete: Becky Van De Griend and Sarah Pluim. Van De Griend is the only female runner from Dordt to ever run at Nationals all 4 years. Compared to her race on the same course 2 weeks earlier in dry weather, she ran only one second slower, while all the other runners in the top 10 ran an average of a minute slower. Van De Griend placed third at this meet.

Pluim also had an outstanding day. This was only her third

race in two years due to injuries, but despite that fact, she ran a fourth place time.

The other women also ran very well with the following finishers: Suzy Van Wyngarden 10th, Tabitha Vander Wilt 11th, Cathy Palmer 13th, Julie Huizenga 17th, and Lorelee Bykerk 23rd. These seven girls will represent Dordt at the NAIA National meet. The other Dordt women in the race were Amanda Vander Wilt in 30th, Rachelle Vander Ploeg with 33rd and Jocelyn Van Beek placed 34th.

The men also ran very well, but placed third behind Sioux Falls and SD Tech in a very tight race. The two men who qualified

for Nationals are Jeff Summerhays and Jon Vander Kooy. Summerhays ran to an outstanding second place, losing by only one second in a grueling competition that lasted the whole race. Summerhays will be going to nationals for the third time in three years. Jon Vander Kooy also qualified for his second trip to Nationals with his fourth place finish in the race.

The other men who ran in this race were Greg Van Dyke 18th, Darin Arkema 20th, Jim Dekkers 24th, Peter Simmons 28th, Jon Dekkers 31st, Eric Vander Kooy 32nd, Marlin Hoogland 35th, Ron Kingma 43rd, Ben Groenewold 45th and

Dale Herredsberg 48th. Comparing their times with 2 weeks ago on the dry course, the men gained an average of a half minute against all the other teams that ran there in the previous meet.

Dordt will be represented by nine runners at Nationals, which is more than any other SDIC team. They also had the best combined men's and women's score for the second straight year, as well as having the most participants with 22.

The runners are looking forward to the NAIA National meet at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha, WI on Saturday, November 21.



## Two of three not good enough for Blades

by Franklin Guillaume  
Sports Reporter

If the Blades could take out their worst period of each game over the last two weekends, they would have two wins, a loss and a tie and would have outscored their opponents 12-11. Instead, they have four losses while having been outscored by their opponents 30-12. The Blades' slow starts and second period lapses proved to hurt the most in the Blades' recent road swing. Usually the Blades can play two strong and entertaining periods of hockey. A lot of individual players are improving rapidly and the team is also getting more and

more used to playing with each other. They're scoring more, shooting more, and hitting more. Unfortunately, they haven't been able to do it for an entire game thus far.

### NSU 9, Dordt Blades 2

James Bentum opened the scoring late in the first but NSU managed eight straight goals, including five in the second period, before Bentum struck again early in the third. NSU added one more to take the game 9-2.

### NSU 3, Dordt Blades 2

The Blades got off to a slow start allowing three first period goals. In the second period, Dordt took control with strong defensive play and got on the board half way through the peri-

od on a goal by Kevin Tuininga. They pulled within one early in the third courtesy of Mark Nagtegaal. The Blades had several chances to tie it throughout the third, even hitting the post once, but they couldn't manage to tickle the twine and were left with a 3-2 loss.

### SDSU 9, Dordt Blades 3

After getting through the first period with a 1-1 tie, the Blades fell apart half way through the second after failing to score on a 5-on-3 powerplay. SDSU scored short-handed and then added five more in less than four minutes to take the lead 7-1 after two periods. The Blades played a much stronger third,

scoring early and late in the period, managing to keep up with the solid physical play of SDSU. The biggest hit of the night, however, came on the way home as Nagtegaal couldn't avoid a deer driving on the interstate. VandeKraats, Tuininga, and Nagtegaal scored for the Blades.

### SDSU 9, Dordt Blades 5

The Blades once again got off to a slow start, giving up five first period goals. In the second, both teams came out with a lot more jump as James Bentum and VanNiejenhuis both knotted goals before SDSU added one more to take the lead 6-2. It was 9-2 before J. Bentum tipped home his fifth of the season off a

point shot from Justin Vyn. VanNiejenhuis got his second with two minutes left and completed his hat trick by scoring on a penalty shot with one second remaining to help make the score respectable.

The Blades finish the semester with a pair of exhibition home games this weekend against UN and on December 4 and 5, the Blades meet NSU again, this time in Luverne. The Blades have realized that they have the capability to outplay their opponents. Now, they are faced with the challenge of motivating themselves right from the start and putting together three good periods of hockey.

## Women ready to hoop it up

by Jesse Groen  
Sports Editor

The women's volleyball team is now sharing its distinction as the Lady Defenders with the women's basketball team.

The hoopsters began action last night against the number two team in the nation, Briar Cliff. The women came out on top 80-77 with Lisa Roos leading the way with 25 points and 16 rebounds. Lori Roos added 17 points. The women are using a combination of youth and experience to tally up the wins, bringing five freshman, five sophomores, four juniors and one senior to the floor.

Returning for his 19th season as head coach of the women's program is Len Rhoda. Rhoda has a 212-248 overall record with Dordt and is coming off a 15-10 mark last year. The ladies finished last year with an 8-6 record in the South Dakota Iowa Conference, which was good enough to secure a spot in post season action. Dordt then lost in the first round of the conference tournament to the number one seed, South Dakota Tech.

Joining Rhoda on the return this year are assistant coach Rick Vanden Berg, 10 letter winners and all five starters. Two seniors who saw consider-

able time off the bench last season, Lynette Roos and Cheryl Dykstra, graduated. Leading the returnees to the court this year are senior Lisa Roos, sophomore Lori Roos and junior Carla Geleynse. Lisa averaged 15 points and eight boards a game last season as a post player. Lori contributed 10 points a game and 5 rebounds from down low. Geleynse brought down 6 rebounds and poured in 11 points per contest in the forward position. Other returning starters are juniors Allison Vis and Marlene Van Wingerden, both in the guard court.

The rest of the returning players are sophomores Heather Broekhuis and Angie Oostenink as guards and Melissa Abee in the lane as a center. A couple of upperclassmen are making their first appearance on the court for the Lady Defenders; junior Kelli Holwerda and sophomore Nerissa Ver Velde will both play post for Rhoda.

Freshmen recruits round out the 15 woman roster. Jill Iverson (Mesa, AZ) and Debbie Dreesen (Luverne, MN) will fill in at guard. Serena Van Beek (Hartley, IA), and Jamie Sybesma (Wendell, ID) will use their height in the forward position and Liz Eekhoff (Sanborn, IA) will contribute as a forward or center.

## Lady Defenders take SDIC again

by Leanne Prins  
Sports Reporter

The Lady Defenders have entered their post-season with a phenomenal regular season behind them in which they went 7-0 in the South Dakota-Iowa Conference league play. They are ranked 14th in the country with a 39-2 record, a new school record and will represent the SDIC at the Great Plains Regional Tournament at Point Lookout, Missouri, this weekend. If their regular season is any indication of what their post season will be like, things look promising for the Lady Defenders heading into Tournament play.

### Dordt 3, Wayne State 0

Wayne state was one of the Lady Defenders' two losses earlier this season, but the Lady Defenders avenged this notch in their notably smooth record by downing the Wildcats 15-5, 15-8, and 15-0. Boogerd had 13 digs and went 13-13 at the line, while Netz led the team with 12 kills.

### Dordt 3, Sioux Falls 1

The Lady Defenders and the Cougars battled it out at the Steward Center to see who would claim the SDIC championship as both teams came in with a 6-0 conference mark. The games were pushed to 15-11, 17-15, and 12-15, but Dordt clinched the championship with a convincing win of 15-3 in the fourth game. Offensively, Van Dyken lofted 51 assists leading to

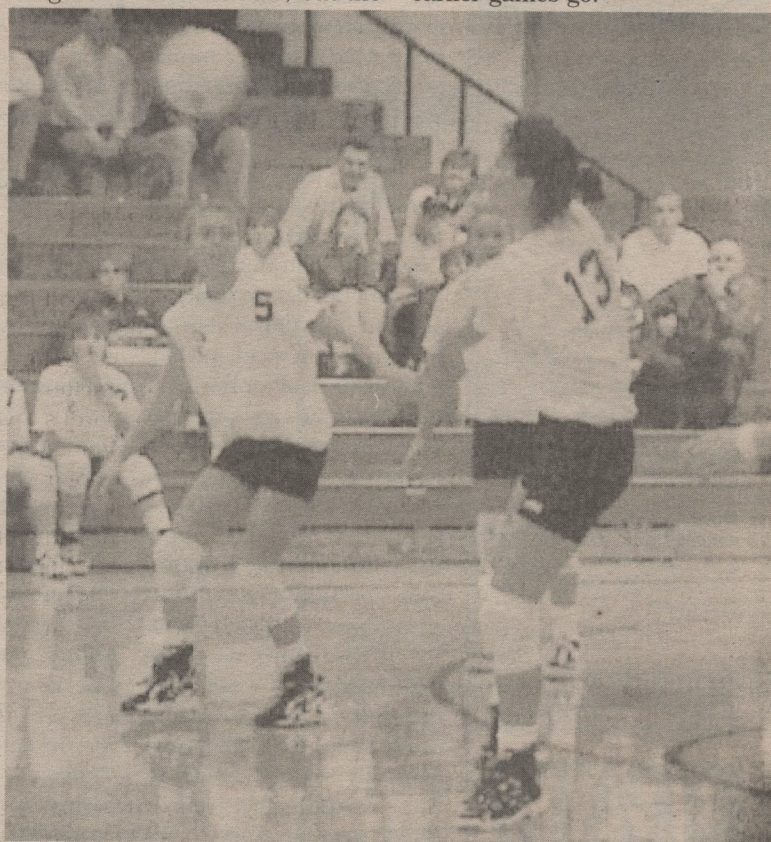
Bouma's 16 and Van Donge's 15 kills, while Welander shone defensively with 14 digs.

### SDIC Post-Season Tournament

Dordt hosted this tournament to determine who goes on to represent SDIC at the Great Plains Regional Tournament. The Lady Defenders smoothly defeated both Huron University and Dakota State University 3-0. Black Hills State was the challenger in the semi-finals, but the

Lady Defenders knocked them off 3-0 to advance to the final match against Sioux Falls. Sioux Falls won one game, but was ultimately outdone, as our Ladies showed no mercy in their quest for the championship.

The Lady Defenders open up play at Regionals at 8:15 Friday night. They then play twice on Friday and possibly on Saturday, depending how their earlier games go.



Mindy Boogerd (13) returns a serve as Carol Welander (5) looks on. [Photo by Andy Stravers]





## "The Apostle" Challenges Christians

by Rob Reitsma  
Staff Reporter

In a day when Hollywood seems infatuated with simple-minded spirituality, with "I'm an angel and God loves you" TV show examples and "God wouldn't let bad things happen to you" movie plots, Robert Duvall's *"The Apostle"* shines through as a film

that actually deals head-on with deep-rooted spirituality in a real world with real problems.

Duvall, who wrote, directed, funded and starred in *"The Apostle,"* plays Sonny Dewey, a Southern Pentecostal preacher who loves to get worked up over the Lord. The beginning of the film shows Sonny preaching at revival tent meetings, whooping and hollering about "Holy Ghost power" and grace in the name of "Gee-suss!"

One night, Sonny goes home to discover that his wife has been cheating on him with his church's youth minister. A few days later, Sonny shows up drunk at his children's little league game and ends up clubbing the youth minister with a baseball bat.

After leaving the scene Sonny runs away, calling upon the Lord for guidance and ends up in a small town. He eventually finds his way to a former minister in that town and they start a new church in the community.

This film addresses many issues and has been widely criticized in the Christian community for the conclusions to which it alludes. The film essentially says that a man of God, a minister, is a sinner.

It seems to say that God can use a broken man to bring about His will. Sonny's new church converted people and refreshed spiritual vigor in others, things that certainly seem in accordance with God's will.

If you have not seen this film yet, please take the time to view it and to think about it. I have purposefully left out details in this column because I think this film is very challenging and very worthy of your time.



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## THE GALLERY

by Kirstin Vander Giessen  
Art Editor

So here's the deal.

Over the past couple of years, I've been involved in a lot of intense discussions about various aspects of "art"- its purpose, the existence or non-existence of Christian art, what makes art good, etc. I've come to realize that these types of conversations occur all of the time on Dordt's campus, in a community where participants are constantly learning and constantly being faced with the reformed ideal. However, these conversations often get confined to word of mouth and get little or no public, documented attention. To address this problem, this space is on reserve for public discussion about the arts. Basically I'll present a topic in one issue and print responses in the next. If there are no takers for a specific topic, I'll move on to another. But my brain is only so big, so responses are definitely welcome. Here's the first topic.

Two weeks ago, Dr. Helen Westra was on campus conducting workshops for English majors on feminist critique of literature. Her primary teaching device was dividing us up into small groups with short stories or poems, giving us a

certain amount of background information about the authors and then asking us to fill in some of the blanks. At one point my group began discussing the connection of agenda with literature and art in general. We approached the topic of agenda as observers of art. An interesting phenomenon in these workshops was how, although some pieces had nothing to do with the feminist agenda, we gave them feminist interpretations as a result of the questions with which Dr. Westra presented us.

This knowledge, for me, led to the seemingly inevitable conclusion that, in the absence of background about an artist, we owe it to him or her as observers of the piece to approach it from as many different perspectives as possible. Limiting our interpretations to a specific agenda, whether it be feminist or capitalist or reformational, is disrespectful to the artist, and detrimental to the truth and universality of the piece, leaving us as the observers inadequately served.

From the perspective of the artist, however, the questions raised are quite different, the first one being, what role does agenda play in the creation of art? Then what should the role be? And when does art become propaganda? Here are

some quotes that are perhaps applicable:

"Art is only a way of applying the artist's individual faculties to the ideas and things of his age."

**Gustave Courbet**, letter to prospective students, 1861.

"Painting should have no other aim than the delectation and joy of the eyes."

**Nicolas Poussin**, quoted in Apollinaire, *Les Peintres cubistes*, 1913.

"Dinner with Crabb Robinson, a pupil of Schelling. His work on Kant's aesthetics. Very clever notions. Art for art's sake and with no purpose; any purpose perverts art. But art achieves a purpose which is not its own."

**Benjamin Constant**, *Journal Intime*, 1804.

"Since art today has a very limited social role, it is only fitting that it should occupy itself with the disinterested and scientific study -even without aesthetic aims- of its immense domain."

**Guillaume Apollinaire**, *Les Peintres cubistes*, 1913.

"Painting is not done to decorate apartments. It is an instrument of war for attack and defense against the enemy."

**Pablo Picasso**, in *lettres francaises*, 1945.

## The whisper of Christmas concerts is in the air

by Maygann McCarthy  
Staff Reporter

The music department is busy putting many concerts together before Christmas. There will be a total of three concerts which will consist of Instrumental Ensembles, the Concert Choir and the Chorale, along with the bands and the Orchestra.

The Concert Choir and the Chorale will give their performances on December 6 at 2:30 p.m. Both choirs will be directed by Tram Sparks and will be giving Christmas concerts. The Chorale will be singing a "Ceremony of Carols" and the Concert Choir will be singing many songs that depict Advent to the birth of Christ. At the end of this concert there will be a community carol where the audience will join the

choirs in singing.

On December 4 the Campus Band and Jazz Band will be giving their performances. Andrew Compton, Ryan Smit and Henry Duitman will be conducting. Norm Gains will direct the Jazz Band and they will be playing pieces from the Big Band Era.

On December 9 the Chamber Orchestra and the Concert Band will be performing under Henry Duitman's direction. The highlight of the Chamber Orchestra will be a quintet composed of Sean Covington, Jeremy Jongsma, Kristin Sybesma, Erika Van Den Hul and Jennifer Van Den Hul. They will perform "Variations" from the "Trout" quintet by Franz Schubert. The Concert Band will play various songs such as "A Fanfare for Band" by Gwyneth

Walker, "Melita" by Thomas Knox and many more.

The Music Department hopes that many of you will come. You are all invited, come, sit relax and let the music fill your mind and soul.

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# Comedy League burns back to stage

by Brady Fopma  
Staff Reporter

They go by names such as the Flaming Moes and Sumo Squirrels and they're fully Student Services approved. If you're unfamiliar with these names, you probably have fallen behind on your civil duties as a Dordt club supporter.

Flaming Moes? Sumo Squirrels? Although they may seem like items on a bad lunch lineup at the Commons, these curious entrees are really names of two Comedy League groups this year and are ready to serve up plenty of delicious humor during their 1998-99 season.

Made up of three teams, Comedy League includes veterans Tim Huizenga, Seth Koerner, Mark Vander Ley and Aaron Lynch and newcomers Amanda Haney, Kristin Hoeksema, Kevin Kingman, Jonathan Shupe, Bob Taylor, Renee Van Groningen, Eric Van Wyk and Amy Vroom.

Created during the 1994-95

school year, Comedy League began as a way for two teams to display their comedic talents in all-out improv warfare every other Friday night.

As one of the original members, Coach Joel Ver Velde remembers well what he terms "The Golden Years of Comedy League." During this historic period, the club performed at various events such as proms, church gatherings and even an art museum.

Lately, however, the support of Comedy League has diminished due to lack of leadership.

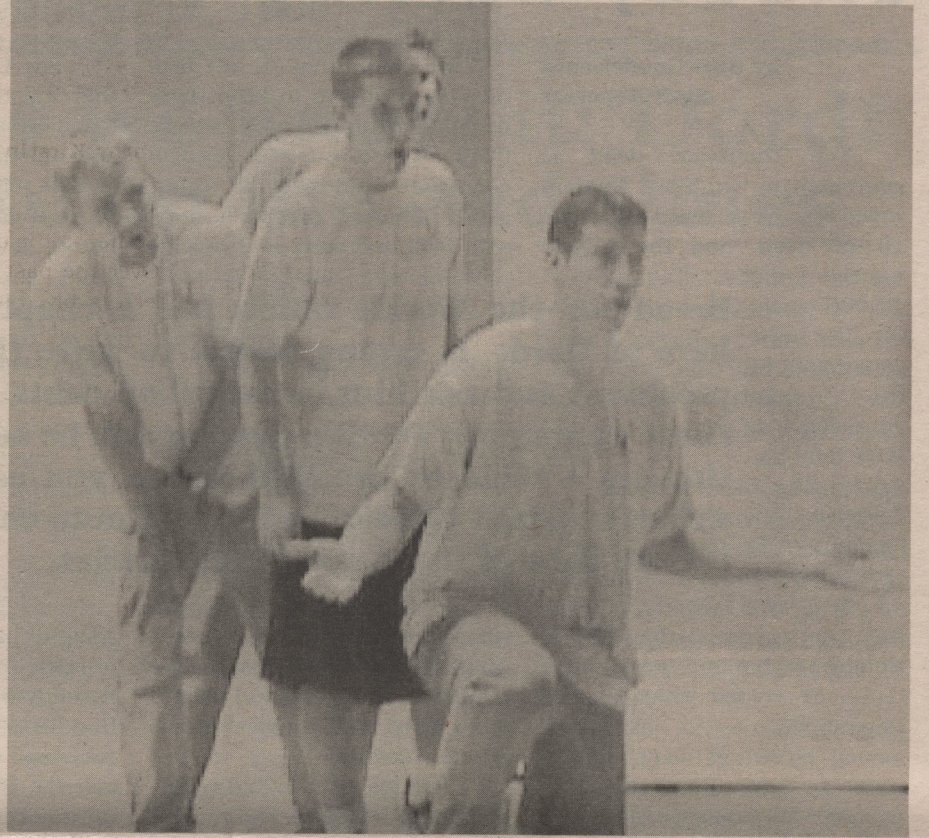
"Unlike what I used to think, improv is really an art form. In the past, most participants and even the audience saw it as something you either had or you didn't have. I no longer agree with that. I believe it is something that anybody can do with the willingness to try, the proper coaching and God's help," says Ver Velde.

Ver Velde hopes to change

things this year by personally coaching the team members, creating a new logo and involving the audience in new and wacky ways.

"I have always loved the art of improv since it started at Dordt and I have been pursuing it as much as I could since then. Now it's my goal to revive Comedy League back to what it used to be and make it even better," says Ver Velde.

November 20 marks the debut of This Untitled Team in the SUB. Take a peek at this year's improvements by supporting Comedy League... and they'll promise never to force feed you flaming moe or sumo squirrel again!



Baffled by their own genius, members of Comedy League entertain the audience. [File photo]

# Barenaked Ladies smuggled over border

by Justin Westerhof  
Staff Reporter

Angst-ridden American teenagers stormed around grunge bands like Nirvana and

Pearl Jam in the early '90s and proclaimed them as the spokes people of their generation.

Remnants still remain of this short-lived, distortion-intensive era in American

music. Creed, Soundgarden and Days of the New still hold on to some of that trend which coined the term "alternative."

However, Americans have chosen a new alternative to this melancholy mainstream, mostly in rebellion. They have turned to music that, instead of reinforcing their depression, is proactive against it. This summer, the Barenaked Ladies have been at the forefront of that trend.

During the grunge period in American music, the Ladies, as they are referred to by their close following, were building a huge name in Canada and only a cult fan club in the U.S.

Americans are always cautious in promoting Canadian music. The Tragically Hip is practically nameless here. Bruce Cockburn is known only in folk circles. Rush got

lucky; Alanis Morissette signed onto an American label.

Slowly, the Ladies were smuggled across the border. It wasn't until after the release of "Rock Spectacle," their live CD, that they got their first break in the industry. "Brian Wilson" stuck in the heads of teenagers, putting the Barenaked Ladies in poll position on the charts.

But this wasn't enough to convince everyone; it took "One Week" to win radio-play security. This song became popular for many reasons. It emulates much of American culture, which partly made it the hit it is. It mentions much modern lore, including Sailor Moon and the "X-Files."

Also, the convergence of interracial musical styles was becoming popular in mainstream music. Hootie is African-American. Matchbox 20 says "straight up" without any name-calling. "One Week" included harmonizing rap parts. Americans could now

relate this group of Canadian buskers. So *Stunt*, the album from which this song came, became a huge success.

However, it was the climate of the industry that really boot-ed them to the top. Feel-good bands such as Matchbox 20, Third-Eye Blind, and Harvey Danger were making it big.

Many Americans complained about the "wussiness" of these bands, and wanted more reality. The Barenaked Ladies and They Might Be Giants appealed to this, presenting reality with a comic twinge.

The Barenaked Ladies have not reached the pinnacle of their success. Their second major market release, *Born on a Pirate Ship*, was worlds better than their first, *Gordon*.

*Stunt* has been their best by far. Their production style has matured incredibly, along with the tangibility of their lyrics. More great things will come from this Canadian quintet.







## Hurricane Mitch hits already hurting countries

by Suzi Goudzwaard  
Staff Reporter

Ten thousand dead is equivalent to two Sioux Centers wiped out. We've heard about the 10,000 dead, and the 11,000 injured and 10,000 missing after hurricane Mitch hit the small countries of Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua for almost a week.

We've seen on the news that 70% of Honduras' banana and coffee crops are ruined which causes unemployment to skyrocket among the 66% of the population who are agricultural workers, that 90% of Honduras' roads and other infrastructures have been destroyed and will take 2-4 years to rebuild, that the two nations which were hit the hardest, Honduras and Nicaragua, are two of the poorest nations in the Western hemisphere.

We know that it will take billions of dollars to keep these nations running and restore them. These countries need to construct hundreds of thousands of homes; provide farmers with food and seed; and provide

**Bread for the World, which has a chapter here at Dordt, is urging people to write the president and ask him to cancel all debts of these countries. Dordt's chapter will be setting up a table in the SUB where you can write President Clinton and urge him to cancel the debt of these ravaged countries.**

villagers with their basic needs until the mountain roads are repaired, bridges and water pipes fixed and medical needs are provided for.

Perhaps it's true that people aren't drowning in the river or being stranded on their roofs as they were, but how many people will have to die of starvation, thirst or preventable sickness as they wait for helicopter drops or for growing season to begin again?

The U.S. has responded to this catastrophe with \$80 million in aid. This may sound like a sizable amount of money, but what is \$80 million to the U.S.? We throw it out to sports and movie heroes like it is no big deal.

Honduras has estimated that repairs will cost at least four times their \$1.2 billion annual budget.

\$80 million does help, but it's still only a drop in the bucket-especially with so much of their budget

going to pay off loans they owe to rich countries like ours. Recently France canceled all of Honduras' and Nicaragua's debts and these nations are asking the U.S. to do the same. It would be more helpful for Honduras if the U.S. canceled their \$4.3 billion debt, rather than for the U.S. to pay small amounts of aid.

If the debts aren't canceled, the countries will be more in debt when they recover from Mitch.

## Racism breeds easily in the silence that surrounds it

by Saida Mamedova  
Guest Writer

On the weekend of November 5th a group of students and a faculty member took a trip to the National Christian Multicultural Student Leadership Conference (NCMSLC) held at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. The theme of the conference was "A new paradigm: Forging real christian community."

At the conference, we were challenged to look at the "celebration of diversity" as a critical process that leads to fully embracing God's justice and developing models for change. The change that will address our personal and collective needs on campus and in society in general. For me, the highlight of the conference was the video presented by Glen Kinoshita called "The Color of Fear." This video was a groundbreaking documentary that examined racism in today's America through the eyes of eight men of various eth-

nic backgrounds. These men had the courage to sit down and discuss the two most avoided, but pressing topics today: racism and discrimination.

This conference made me realize the importance of discussing ethnicity and diversity on our campuses, no matter how hard it is. Our responsibility as Christians is to share the diversity, not to overlook it. By neglecting this topic we never resolve our deepest fears and insecurities. No matter how hard we try to be "nice," our unresolved feelings come out at the end. By talking about the racial issues, we develop a better understanding of "otherness," which brings us closer to each other and to the Kingdom of God.

So, as we are trying to build our real Christian community, I urge you to gather for discussions and reveal your thoughts to people of different ethnic backgrounds. There can be no community without communication between its members.

## A reason for hope in Haiti

by Emily Hutten  
Staff Reporter

During the 1980's all of the pigs in Haiti were slaughtered. An exotic disease to Haiti, African Swine Fever infected many of the peoples' herds. Its threat forced the government to order all Haitian farmers to kill their pigs, a tragedy in a country depending on pigs as a main source of nutrition and income.

The United States transported new pigs to the island. A new breed to Haiti, the pigs were less hardy than the tropical breeds the farmers were used to. Haiti's peasant farmers could not provide the special food and care they required. The distress of the poor in Haiti increased.

The 1980's brought increasing hardship and revolution to Haiti. Revolting from the tyrannical rule of Jean-Claude Duvalier, and struggling from the effects of the African Swine

Fever that ravaged their farms, the Haitian peasants suffered bitterly. They were forced to sacrifice their educations, mortgage their farm lands, and watch their children deteriorate from malnutrition.

This history has left today's Haiti with huge problems of deforestation, erosion and land fragmentation. Farming techniques are primitive and malnutrition leaves many farming families unable to have productive farms. Though no longer under colonial rule, the oppression of Haiti's poor continues.

Arsene Similien is living liberation in the face of Haiti's oppression. Similien is a farmer in Haiti. After studying agriculture for four years, he started working with S.E.E.D. Ministries in Ceyes, Haiti. He works with students who come from communities all over Haiti to learn about agriculture, economics

and veterinary medicine.

As I ate lunch with Similien at the ECHO conference in Florida, he told me about the work he has been doing. When he came to the institute he ended up teaching not only agriculture, but community development and church leadership as well. As he told me his story, Similien smiled-these were things he never expected doing.

I find hope in Similien's story. As he teaches his students about the land and helps them discover ways to deal with the degradation of their soil and the malnutrition of their people, he helps them to see hope. He lives the gospel-liberation, redemption and hope.

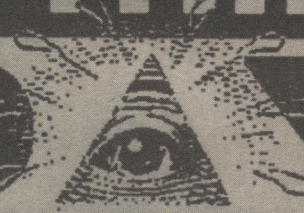
"Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness." (II Corinthians 2:10)

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